

CALIFORNIA LATINO CAUCUS



LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Volume 3, Edition 1 — January 2009

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Vice Chair

Asm. Tony Mendoza

Senators

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McLeod

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V. Manuel Pérez

Mary Salas

Lori Saldaña

Jose Solorio

Norma J. Torres

Alberto Torrico

New Latino Caucus Member Profile

Assemblymember John A. Pérez



John A. Perez was drawn to politics when he was still in high school. For more than twenty years, John has been involved in the fight to create good jobs with livable wages, improve health care and has stood up for those without a voice.

While growing up in the working-class communities of El Sereno and Highland Park in northeast Los Angeles, John's parents taught him early about the value of hard work and community service. Those values eventually persuaded John to run for the State Assembly in 2008.

John's diverse work experience began when he became politically active, as a high school student, helping organize students against the East Los Angeles prison; to his position on the Redevelopment Agency where he helped lead the effort to turn that same site into a Green Tech Center that creates jobs and serves as a business incubator.

Having grown up in a neighborhood where jobs weren't always available, he knew helping local residents get hired for Redevelopment

Agency projects would help build a stronger neighborhood and, in turn, would strengthen families. That's why he led the effort to mandate a local hiring agreement requiring 30% of all major construction jobs be dedicated to local residents and those in need, providing people with valuable training in skilled professions.

John's understanding of economic struggles led him to stand up for tenants who were being victimized by lead exposure. He helped organize tenants to learn about lead exposure and abatement programs, implemented free lead screening tests, and instituted education efforts for residents in developments impacted by lead exposure.

With the state's dire economic situation and the need for jobs and economic recovery, John is looking forward to continuing his fight for better jobs and health care as he works with his colleagues in the Assembly serving as the newly appointed Democratic Caucus Chair. John's committee assignments include: Appropriations, Business and Professions; Transportation, Water, Parks and Wildlife, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Before being elected to the Assembly, John served as an elected member of the Democratic National Committee, and as a board member for the California League of Conservation Voters, AIDS Project Los Angeles, the Latino Coalition against AIDS and the California Center for Regional Leadership, in addition to his work in the labor movement.

John is an avid reader and enjoys traveling. Following the football fortunes of his beloved Cal Bears also keeps John busy when he's not working.

CEDILLO ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF LATINO CAUCUS

I would like to welcome you all to the 2008-2009 legislative session. Despite the economic challenges we face as a state, 2009 looks to be a promising year of change for our country. In what was truly a landmark moment in American history and a sign of significant racial progress, our nation recently witnessed the swearing in of its first African American President.

It was a historical election in which Latinos played a key role, voting overwhelmingly in support of Obama. California and the nation as a whole are truly ready for change, as the Democrats have significantly increased their numbers in the United States Congress and the California State Assembly. In addition,

President Obama has included several Latinos in his cabinet, such as Ken Salazar and Hilda Solis from California. I am honored and proud to be the elected chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus and would like to welcome our newest members, Assemblymember Manuel Pérez (D-80), Assemblymember Norma Torres (D-61) and Assemblymember John Pérez (D-46).

I am enthusiastic about my new leadership role within the Caucus and look forward to working collectively with the members to elevate the stature of Latinos in California.

Gilbert Cedillo
Chair

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER MENDOZA AS VICE-CHAIR OF LATINO CAUCUS

Assemblymember Mendoza has been elected Vice Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus. Assemblymember Mendoza represents the 56th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Artesia, Buena Park, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Los Nietos, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs and portions of East Whittier and Lakewood.

Mendoza said, "I am proud to serve as the Vice Chair of the Latino Caucus and look forward to working on the priorities our Caucus has identified."

The 2009 Latino Caucus agenda includes advocating for its legislative priorities in the areas of education, public safety, healthcare, language access and creating economic opportunities for Hispanic Businesses. The Caucus will continue to work hard to increase the number of Latinos elected and appointed in government, and to advance the Caucus priorities.

Having grown up in South Central Los Angeles, Assemblymember Mendoza has advocated on behalf of at-risk children throughout his career. First as a fourth grade teacher at Brooklyn Avenue Elementary School in East Los Angeles, then as an active member in United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and as a representative to the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the National Education Association. As a member of these groups, he fought for classroom resources and better learning conditions for teachers and students.

Assemblymember Mendoza's legislative priorities include transportation, housing, education and business development.

He and his wife, Leticia, live in Artesia and have three daughters and one son.

Quote of the Month:

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

President Barack Obama



Latino Caucus Legacy Members honored at the Welcome Back Luncheon: Richard Alatorre, Martha Escutia, and Art Torres



The New Vice Chair of the Latino Caucus, Assemblymember Mendoza provides words of advice to new Legislators



Newly Elected Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez with family & friends at the Welcome Back Luncheon

Upcoming
Events

Tuesday, Feb 3rd

Latino Caucus
co-sponsor's
Building
California's Health
Professions
Workforce led by
Assemblymember
Hernandez at the
State Capitol
10:00 am to 12:00
noon, Room 447

Tuesday, Feb. 10th

Latino Caucus &
the Latino Health
Alliance in
partnership with
CA Immigrant
Policy Center
(CPIC), Latino
Coalition for a
Healthy CA
(LCHC), Latino
Issues Forum (LIF)
and MALDEF
Policy Briefing.
State Capitol
10:30 am to 12:00
noon, room 113
Followed by lunch
reception in room
125

**LATINO CAUCUS MEMBERS:
ASSEMBLY & SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

SEN Appropriations – Jenny Oropeza
SEN Banking, Finance & Insurance – Ron Calderon (Chair), Lou Correa, Dean Florez, Alex Padilla
SEN Business Professions & Economic Development – Gloria Negrete McLeod (Chair), Lou Correa, Dean Florez, Jenny Oropeza
SEN Education – Gloria Romero (Chair), Alex Padilla
SEN Energy, Utilities & Communications – Alex Padilla (Chair), Ron Calderon
SEN Food & Agriculture – Dean Florez (Chair)
SEN Governmental Organization – Ron Calderon, Dean Florez, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Jenny Oropeza, Alex Padilla, Gloria Romero
SEN Health – Gilbert Cedillo, Gloria Negrete McLeod
SEN Judiciary – Dean Florez
SEN Labor & Industrial Relations – Gloria Negrete McLeod
SEN Natural Resources & Water – Alex Padilla
SEN Public Employment & Retirement – Lou Correa (Chair), Gloria Negrete McLeod, Alex Padilla
SEN Public Safety – Gilbert Cedillo
SEN Revenue & Taxation – Dean Florez
SEN Rules – Gilbert Cedillo, Jenny Oropeza
SEN Transportation & Housing – Jenny Oropeza
SEN Veteran's Affairs – Lou Correa (Vice Chair), Gilbert Cedillo, Gloria Negrete McLeod
ASM Accountability & Administrative Review – Hector De La Torre (Chair), Anna Caballero, Felipe Fuentes, V. Manuel Pérez
ASM Aging & Long-Term Care – Norma Torres (Vice Chair), Anna Caballero
ASM Agriculture – Juan Arambula, Tony Mendoza
ASM Appropriations – Kevin De León (Chair), Charles Calderon, Felipe Fuentes, John A. Pérez, Jose Solorio
ASM Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism & Internet Media – Charles Calderon, Kevin De León
ASM Banking & Finance – Pedro Nava (Chair), Felipe Fuentes, Tony Mendoza, Norma Torres

ASM Budget – Juan Arambula, Anna Caballero, Hector De La Torre, Ed Hernandez
ASM Budget Subcommittee #1, Health & Human Services – Hector De La Torre, Ed Hernandez
ASM Budget Subcommittee #3, Resources – Anna Caballero
ASM Budget Subcommittee #4, State Administration – Juan Arambula (Chair), Hector De La Torre
ASM Business & Professions – Ed Hernandez, Pedro Nava, John A. Pérez
ASM Education – Juan Arambula, Jose Solorio
ASM Elections & Redistricting – Joe Coto, Tony Mendoza, Lori Saldaña
ASM Governmental Organization – Joe Coto, Kevin De León, Tony Mendoza, Norma Torres, Alberto Torrico
ASM Health – Hector De La Torre, Ed Hernandez, Pedro Nava, V. Manuel Pérez, Mary Salas
ASM Housing & Community Development – Tony Mendoza (Chair), Hector De La Torre, Lori Saldaña
ASM Human Services – Norma Torres
ASM Insurance – Joe Coto (Chair), Charles Calderon, Pedro Nava, Norma Torres
ASM Jobs, Economic Development, & the Economy – V. Manuel Pérez (Chair), Mary Salas
ASM Local Government – Anna Caballero (Chair)
ASM Natural Resources – Kevin De León
ASM Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security – Ed Hernandez (Chair), Alberto Torrico
ASM Public Safety – Jose Solorio (Chair)
ASM Revenue & Taxation – Charles Calderon (Chair), Joe Coto, Lori Saldaña
ASM Rules – Norma Torres
ASM Transportation – John A. Pérez, Jose Solorio
ASM Utilities & Commerce – Felipe Fuentes (Chair), Alberto Torrico
ASM Veterans Affairs – Mary Salas (Chair), V. Manuel Pérez, Lori Saldaña
ASM Water, Parks & Wildlife – Juan Arambula, Anna Caballero, John A. Pérez, Mary Salas
ASM Joint Legislative Audit Committee – Joe Coto, John A. Pérez, Alberto Torrico

Latino Caucus Member Office Staff Roster

SEN Ron Calderon (room 5066) 651-4030, 327-8755, Rocky Rushing (cos), Cynthia Gonzalez (sch), Adam Gray (lg), Salina Valencia, Tanya Guzman

SEN Gil Cedillo (room 5100) 651-4022, 327-8817, Dan Savage (cos), Jan Schreiner (sch), Cori Ayala (ld), Xochitl Arellano, Yuliana Mendez, Martin Radosevich, Teresa Acuña

SEN Lou Correa (room 5052) 651-4034, John Scribner (cos), Martha Lopez (sch), Lina Hamilton, Heather Lockey, John Tennyson

SEN Denise Moreno Ducheny (room 5035) 651-4040, 327-3522, John Ferrera (cos), Kim Craig (deputy cos), Phyllis Chow (sch), Nadia Leal (ld), Michelle Cabrera

SEN Dean Florez (room 313) 651-4016, 324-5989, Bob Alvarez (cos), Elizabeth Gonzales (sch), Amy Costa (ld), Alfredo Medina

SEN Gloria Negrete McLeod (room 2059) 651-4032, 445-0128, Don Wilcox (cos), Terra Grantham (sch), Andrew Langley (ld), Alfonso Sanchez, Lucia Valencia, Brent Aboudara

SEN Jenny Oropeza (room 5114) 651-4028, 323-6056, Sharon Weissman (cos), Aubrey Carstenson (sch), Sean Henschel (ld), Miranda Flores, Ray Sotero, Tomasa Dueñas, Lynne Jensen, Kerry Hillis, Matthew Ortiz

SEN Alex Padilla (room 4038) 651-4020, 324-6645, Bill Mabie (cos), Janice Lark (sch), Kristin Triepke (ld), Martha Gutierrez

SEN Gloria Romero (room 2090), 651-4024, 445-0485, Tracy Fairchild (cos), Carol Rodriguez (sch), Tim Romartie (ld), Vianey Nuñez, Melinda Melendez, Rae Flores

ASM Juan Arambula (room 2141) 319-2031, 319-2131, Sarah Reyes (cos), Jalene Molina (sch), Andrew White (ld), Joseph Devlin, Mariana Corona, Les Spahn

ASM Anna Caballero (room 5119) 319-2028, 319-2128, Willie Armstrong (cos), Jennifer Magdaleno (sch), Aracely Campa (ld), Angela Mapp, Chinook Shin, Crystal Quezada

ASM Charles Calderon (room 2117), 319-2058, 319-2158, Tom White (cos), Helen Paraskevas (sch), Vanessa Lugo, Ariana Ramirez, Aaron Moreno

ASM Joe Coto (room 2013) 319-2023, 319-2123,

Adriana Ruelas (cos), Jessica Golly (sch), Arlan Welch (ld), Naomi Amaha

ASM Hector De La Torre (room 4016) 319-2050, 319-2150, Juan Torres (cos), Karla Mendoza (sch), Glenda Corcoran (ld), Felipe Perez, Elizabeth Delgado, Kimberlina McKinney

ASM Kevin De León (room 2114) 319-2045, 319-2145, Dan Reeves (cos), Norma Zendejas (sch), Lisa Chin (ld), Andrea Ambriz, Angelica Salceda

ASM Felipe Fuentes (room 5136) 319-2039, 319-2139, Raul Bocanegra (cos), Beth Dacumos (sch), Greg Wesley (ld), Nina Kapoor, Mariko Yoshihara

ASM Ed Hernandez (room 4112) 319-2057, 319-2157, Walter Hughes (cos), Maria Lerma (sch), Pedro Salcido, Annabel Smith

ASM Tony Mendoza (room 2188) 319-2056, 319-2156, Gina Bennett (sch), Mercedes Flores (cd), Minnie Santillan, Rene Bayardo, Armando Chavez

ASM Pedro Nava (room 2148) 319-2035, 319-2135, Jim DeBoo (cos), Jenna Von Esmarch (sch), Jackie Koenig (ld), Jilena Eifer

ASM John A. Pérez (room 3160) 319-2046, 319-2146, Sara Ramirez (cos), Nicole Curran (sch), Darci Sears (ld), John Vigna, Charles Lawlor, Christa Gibson, Suzanne Apgar

ASM V. Manuel Pérez (room 4162) 319-2080, 319-2180, Jose Carmona (cos), Debbie Collins (sch), Erika Contreras (ld), Tomas Oliva, Trinidad Solis

ASM Mary Salas (room 2137) 319-2079, 319-2179, Francisco Estrada (cos), Soledad Villalobos (sch), Marlon Cuellar

ASM Lori Saldaña (room 3152) 319-2076, 319-2176, Lucy Camarillo-Krohn (cos), Gina Pandelopoulos (sch), Andrew Zingale (ld), Chris Alvarez, Erica Costa

ASM Jose Solorio (room 2196) 319-2069, 319-2169, Sharlene Carus (sch), Sandra DeBourelaud (ld), Carol Chamberlain, Ismael Herrera, Wais Hassan

ASM Norma J. Torres (room 4164) 319-2061, 319-2161, Chris Wagaman (cos), Bill Julian (ld), Gustavo Arroyo

ASM Alberto Torrico (room 319) 319-2020, 319-2120, John Doherty (cos), Elaine Sandoval (sch), Lennies Gutierrez (ld), Jeff Barbosa, Ryan Spencer, Shirley Kim, Yna Shimabukuro

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“La Verdad”

*According to the Pew Hispanic Center's report, the Latino unemployment rate was 8.8% in October while the unemployment rate for the overall economy was 6.5%

*According to the California HealthCare Foundation, more than 20% of Californians are uninsured (6.6 million). <http://www.chcf.org/topics/healthinsurance/index.cfm?itemID=133820>

*More than a third of the uninsured have family incomes of more than \$50,000 per year

*Seventy percent of uninsured children are in families where the head of the household has a year round, full-time job

*Nearly 60% of the state's uninsured are Latino